

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :
: Group Art Unit: 2611
Anthony Bessios et al. :
: Examiner: Leila Malek
Appln. No.: 10/667,492 :
: Confirmation No.: 1240
Filed: September 23, 2003 :
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Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the duty under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 of each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of the above-identified patent application (hereinafter, "associated individuals") to disclose all information known to that individual to be material to patentability, Applicant(s) hereby submits attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) listing cited references. This submission is made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609.

The cited references, while believed to be of some relevance, are not necessarily considered to teach or suggest any aspect of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified patent application. Applicant(s) hereby expressly

reserves the right to swear behind the effective dates of any of the cited references. Applicant(s) further reserves the right to question the relevance, materiality, and/or prior art status of any of the cited references in whole, in part, or in combination, subsequent to the filing of this information disclosure statement. This information disclosure statement is also not to be construed as a representation that a search has, or has not, been conducted or that no better art exists. Rather, this information disclosure statement discloses only the best references of which the associated individuals are aware.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each of the cited references, to indicate such consideration by initialing in the space provided next to each cited reference on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified), to sign the initialed Form PTO-1449 (modified), and to return a copy of the same with the next communication to the Applicant(s).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a), only copies of the cited references which are not U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications (if any) are being submitted herewith. However, copies of the cited references which are U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications will be submitted at the request of the Examiner. In considering these cited references, it may be noted by the Examiner that certain of the references

may contain markings, underlinings, and/or other notations. These markings, underlinings, and/or other notations are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention either to selected parts or away from other parts of these cited references. Any such markings were either present on the copies of these cited references when obtained by the associated individuals, or were made thereon during the study of these cited references by the associated individuals.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this information disclosure statement is being filed (i) before the mailing date of a final Office Action for the above-identified patent application; (ii) before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance for the above-identified patent application; or (iii) before the mailing date of an Office Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the above-identified patent application. Accordingly, this information disclosure statement is accompanied by a check or an authorization to charge the information disclosure statement submission fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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